

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

Akron, Ohio 44316-0001

Intellectual Property Law Department

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Number of pages transmitted: 2
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Message:

For: Serial No.: 10/037,539; Attorney Docket No.: DN2001214; Confirmation No.: 7282

Per our telephone conversation today, the following is a copy of Page 32 from the specification as filed for the above noted patent application.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or need additional information. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

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9. The process of claim 1 wherein said process further comprises:

(A) using an emulsion stabilizing amount of said cationic surfactant in said latex for said polymerization of said monomers to prevent coagulation of resultant elastomer particles from said latex,

5 (B) following completion of said polymerization of said monomers, adding an increased amount of the same or additional cationic surfactant to said latex to increase the amount of cationic surfactant available for ion exchange with cationic exchangeable ions contained in the galleries of said water-swellaable clay, and thereafter,

10 (C) blending said resulting latex with said water-swellaable clay in an amount of said clay based upon substantially equivalent cationic ions of total of said cationic surfactant(s) to said cationic ion exchangeable ions in said galleries of said clay.

15 10. The process of claim 1 wherein said water swellaable clays are selected from at least one of water-swellaable smectite clays, vermiculite based clays and mica based clays.

20 11. The process of claim 1 wherein said water-swellaable clay is a smectite clay selected from at least one of montmorillonite, hectorite, nontrite, beidellite, volkonskoite, saponite, sauconite, sobockite, sterensite, and sinfordite clays.

12. The process of claim 1 wherein ions contained in the galleries of said water-swellaable clay between its platelets are comprised of at least one of sodium ions and potassium ions.

25 13. A nanocomposite prepared by the process of claim 1.

14. A nanocomposite prepared by the process of claim 9.

30 15. A rubber composite comprised of a blend of said nanocomposite of claim 13 and additional elastomer(s) and/or additional particulate reinforcing filler.

16. A rubber composite comprised of a blend of said nanocomposite of claim 14 and additional elastomer(s) and/or additional particulate reinforcing filler.